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REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 10, 2003 the Examiner objected to the drawings on the basis that they did not show every feature of the invention specified in the claim. The Examiner suggested that a method or step chart would help in showing the features of the method aspect. Proposed Figure 11 is intended to meet this requirement.

Figures 1, 2, 8 and 10 have been amended in order to provide reference numerals to identify key components defined in the claims. Additionally, the specification has been amended to include the reference numerals now shown in the amended drawings.

It is believed that the amended drawings and amendments to the specification overcome the Examiner's objection.

An Abstract has been presented on a separate page in compliance with 37 CFR 1.72(b).

A new title has been presented for approval by the Examiner.

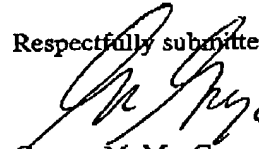
The Examiner will note that the elements in the claims have been reworded so as to be consistent with terminology in the specification as originally filed. For example, the expression "forwarding tables" has been changed to "forwarding rules" the new term being described in some detail on page 31 beginning at line 10 of the specification.

It is believed that the antecedent for and/or support called for by the Examiner have been addressed and that the claims comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112.

It is also believed that the amended specification and claims meets the enablement requirements raised by the Examiner.

By this amendment claims 1 through 8, 10 through 21 have been amended and claims 9 and 22 cancelled. Reconsideration and re-examination of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


George M. MacGregor, Reg. No. 37,547
Marks & Clerk
P.O. Box 957, Station B
280 Slater Street, Suite 1800
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1P 5S7

Telephone No.: (613) 236.9561
Facsimile No.: (613) 230-8821